GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:573
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
POLLUTION IN DELHI
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken several steps to reduce the pollution level in the capital, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, ` Pollution level drops: clear air still a far cry` appearing in the Hindu dated April 12, 2002;

(d) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(e) whether most of the policies are still on paper and remained to be implemented as expressed by the Director of Centre for Science and Environment;

(f) if so, the details of these policies; (g) the reasons for not implementing the same; and (h) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) & (h) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) & (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NC DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.05.2002 REGARDING POLLUTION IN DELHI RAISED BY SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI AND SHF MOHAN GADDE.

(a) to (h) The Government have from time to time taken several steps to reduce pollution in the capital, the more important of which are as follows:-

(i) A number of hazardous and polluting industries have been closed down.

(ii) All the Hot Mix Plants and brick kilns have been shut down.

(iii) Stone crushers have been shifted away from Delhi.

(iv) For control of water pollution from clusters of small scale industries, fifteen Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been taken up.

(v) Delhi has been covered under Yamuna Action Plan for the control of water pollution.

(vi) Sewage Treatment Plants have been installed to upgrade the capacity for treatment of municipal waste water.

(vii) Bharat Stage II emission norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in the NCR (National Capital Region). These norms have been made effective for commercial vehicles from 24.10.2001 in respect of National Capital Territory (NCT)of Delhi.

(viii) Unleaded petrol has been introduced in Delhi from 1.4.1995.

(ix) Diesel with 0.05% sulphur content maximum is being supplied from 30.6.2001 to the NCR.

(x) Petrol with 1% Benzene maximum is made available in the NCT of Delhi from 1.11.2000 and from 1.4.2001 in the NCR.

(xi) Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles have been made effective from 9.2.2000. CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi.

(xii) Emission norms for Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven vehicles have been notified.

The news item referred to the drop in air pollution during the period 6th April to 10th April, 2002. The ambient air quality in respect of Sulphur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter has shown lower values as compared to the values observed during operation of diesel buses.